

### The Future of South Africa.

It is probable that the separate States of South Africa will be brought into a federation, each having a certain degree of independence, and yet all under the supreme authority of Great Britain. This would be similar to the federation that has recently been formed in Australia. The absorption of Schleswig-Holstein by Prussia, and of Alsace-Lorraine by Germany, were cases of absolute absorption—the identity of the provinces was wholly lost. This was the fact also with regard to Russia in its successive advances in Central Asia, and to France in its conquests of Madagascar, Algeria and Tonquin. The English nation has learned that the permanence of colonial possessions depends upon granting them a certain degree of autonomy. The British colonies to-day are proving themselves most loyal because Great Britain has adopted a most liberal policy toward them. Under British rule the federated republics of South Africa will realize a degree of prosperity that has been unknown to them heretofore.—*Argonaut.*



Hon. Cecil Rhodes.

### America in the Transvaal.

The government seems determined to impress upon President Kruger's mind the fact that when America receives a trust, it is sacred. The British interest placed in Consul Macrum's hand will be maintained by the backing of the Nation. Government has cabled to United States Consul Macrum, at Pretoria, to impress upon President Kruger that the usages of all civilized nations sanction the ministration of a neutral representative in the interest of the citizens and captives of one of the parties to a war, and to further insist upon performing the sacred duties imposed by all considerations of humanity.

### Some Notes on the Plague.

The spread of the plague in Japan has called forth a statement in the *Chio* by Dr. Kitazato, the greatest authority on infectious diseases in Japan, that carries many interesting points. The rat, so often discussed in Honolulu, is accepted as a powerful medium of propagation by Dr. Kitazato; it is almost always the case in Japan that in a pest-stricken house two or three dead rats—plague victims—are to be found. In the outbreak in Hongkong some years back carcasses of dead rats were found in great numbers on the streets literally filled with plague bacillis. If, says Dr. Kitazato, the flesh from the thigh of a pest-victim comes into contact with the tip of a rat's tail, the rodent drops dead immediately. It is practically impossible to suppress this mode of dissemination of plague-germs, and it must, perforce, be recognized as a terrible factor in the spread of the scourge. The infection is not necessarily confined to contact with a pest patient, stray scraps of paper, or even the damp air may be the conductor. The presumption is that the plague in Kobe originated from germs concealed in grain and imported cotton from Newchwang, China, as employees or dealers in these articles were the first victims.

The tiniest scratch or wound on hand and feet are easy avenues of entrance for germs, and the classes of Japanese, Chinese, and our own barefooted Japanese are thus the more liable to be attacked.

### France and the Open Door.

It may have been peace-loving motives that prompted the statement of M. Delclasse, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Chamber of Deputies, but it is probable that the outlook of probable Anglo-German-American Alliance for the maintenance of a free field for commercial enterprise in China was the real cause of so sudden and so pleasing a declaration of the French Government's policy.

### The Exclusion of Roberts, of Utah.

Aside from the excellent moral impulses that may prompt the removal of "Mormon" Roberts, every person signing the monster petition drawn up for that purpose is guilty of violating the principle of our representative government. Since Roberts has "attained the age of twenty five years" has "been seven years a citizen of the United States," and "is an inhabitant of the State from which he was legally chosen in a legally conducted election" any attempt to refuse him his seat is an attempt to defy the Constitution of the United States and the repudiation of the political rights of the people of Utah.

### Spain and Great Britain in Morocco.

Lord Salisbury some time ago declared his opinion that Morocco was the most important question looming ahead and one liable to lead to the long predicted European war. France conceives her right to Morocco by the contiguity of her Algerian possessions. Germany in a position somewhat analogous to England in Africa deems it essential to her West African colonies that she should have a portion of at least the coast line, while of course England's paramount objection lays in the fact that a strip of Morocco, that might command the Straits, falling in the hands of any other power would greatly neutralise the now enormous strategic value of the Rock of Gibraltar.

Spain, however, continues to fortify the heights dominating Gibraltar despite the urgent representations of England, and relations are extremely strained. The channel squadron of England is now at Tangier, and it is probable that the fitting out of a special service squadron bears relation principally to possible developments in Morocco. The hand of France is palpable in intrigue with Spain to oust Germany and England from Morocco while her money supplies Spain's necessary needs. Russia, too, would be more than willing to assist Spain with her roubles as the dominant power of England at the Straits of Gibraltar means prevention at any moment of Russia's fleets in the Black Sea from leaving the Mediterranean.

### England and the Exposition.

The strong anti-British feeling shown by the French press over the Transvaal affairs has culminated in a series of gross insults, reflecting directly upon Queen Victoria. The nature of the cartoons and comments are beyond description, and the French Government have suppressed some of the worst. The damage, however, seems to have been done. The success of the Parisian Exhibition naturally gains much from English patronage, and this it has now practically lost. The Prince of Wales has taken up the matter as a personal one, and declares his intention of withdrawing from any but a formal part in the Exposition. This incident is but another of the straws that show which way the wind blows, and point out the probable path of the coming war-cloud in Europe.